

PREFACE

These notes on *Old Testament III* represent class notes that I have developed and used over the years for teaching the Old Testament at the master's level. In their present form, they are still in "rough draft" mode. They have not been carefully edited, and I trust the reader will be forgiving about the present condition of these notes. The pages are not uniformly numbered, but were originally numbered by session number. Hence, page 1.3 would represent the third page of session one, and page 9.6 would represent the sixth page of session nine, etc. Hopefully, reference to the Table of Contents will provide the reader an avenue of finding the desired section.

In my years of teaching the Old Testament at the graduate level, I have taught from the viewpoint of "progressive revelation." By that I mean that God progressively revealed more and more of His truth to man throughout history. Unfortunately, the Bibles we use today do not reflect this, for they are not arranged chronologically but topically. We will try (as much as possible) to study them in the order in which God would have given them to man, so as to sense His revelation progressively unfolding.

These notes on *Old Testament III* cover the material for the last in the series of three Old Testament classes that are currently being offered in the master's level program at the Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary. This represents the biblical portions from Micah to Malachi, covering most of the prophets as well as the corresponding historical material for this period. This corresponds to the period of the Assyrian menace (just prior to 722 BC) until the end of the Old Testament revelation.

The emphasis of these notes will be given to tracing the theological development through the Old Testament, so as to see how each of the Old Testament books contributes to the overall plan of God. This will center around God's plan for worldwide "salvation" and blessing as it is inaugurated through Abram and carried out through his descendants and eventually the nation of Israel as His kingdom of priests. In essence, we will study the outworking of the "Abrahamic Covenant," as it progressively builds toward the coming of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, who will take away the sins of the world as a prelude to bringing universal peace, righteousness, and justice. Although the climax to this plan will not be realized until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus and the inauguration of His kingdom, the Old Testament will serve to pave the way for this latter development when the glorious realization to all God's promises of the Old Testament will be achieved.

The concern of this particular volume focuses on the exile of both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel, and the restoration of the southern kingdom from captivity. God confronts the nation with its sin that brings about the exile, announces judgment, and even casts a glimpse to the far distant future when the nation will be regathered and restored under Messiah's rule. This involves the fulfilment of both the Davidic Covenant and the New Covenant with Israel. For an elaboration of my overall theological understanding of the prophets and the outworking of the promises to Israel, the reader may wish to consult the notes from Volume II entitled "A Progressive Fulfillment View of Israel's Old Testament Covenants and Promises."